

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 687

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to provide greater
transparency on earmark requests.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to
provide greater transparency on earmark requests.

1 *Resolved*, That (a) rule XXIII of the Rules of the
2 House of Representatives is amended by redesignating
3 clause 18 as clause 19 and by inserting after clause 17
4 the following:

5 “18. A Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner
6 who requests a congressional earmark, a limited tax ben-
7 efit, or a limited tariff benefit shall, within 24 hours after
8 making such request—

1 “(a) post on his or her public website for the
2 remainder of the Congress financial certification let-
3 ters that contain the following—

4 “(1) the name and address of the intended
5 recipient;

6 “(2) the requested amount (only in the
7 case of congressional earmarks);

8 “(3) an explanation of the request, includ-
9 ing the purpose, and why it is a valuable use
10 of taxpayer funds;

11 “(4) state if the recipient of the requested
12 funds is a public, private, nonprofit, or for prof-
13 it entity; and

14 “(5) a statement that neither the request-
15 ing member nor their spouse has any financial
16 interest related to the funding request;

17 “(b) display on the homepage of such website a
18 hypertext link that contains the words ‘Appropriations Requests’, ‘Limited Tax Benefits’, or ‘Limited
19 Tariff Benefits’ and that directs to such webpage
20 address, and maintain that link for at least 90 cal-
21 endar days after the last such request is made dur-
22 ing the Congress; and
23

1 “(c) electronically submit to the committee of
2 subject-matter jurisdiction the webpage address
3 where such information is posted.”.

4 (b) The last sentence of clause 16 of rule XXIII of
5 the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by
6 striking “and clause 17” and inserting “, clause 17, and
7 clause 18”.

8 SEC. 2. Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives is amended by adding at the end the following
10 new clause:

11 **“Earmark disclosure websites**

12 “(s)(1) Any committee that accepts any request of
13 a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner for a con-
14 gressional earmark, a limited tax benefit, or a limited tar-
15 riff benefit shall maintain a public website with an earmark
16 disclosure webpage that contains the list of earmarks in-
17 cluded in the Committee Report of the bill and is in a
18 downloadable format that is searchable.

19 “(2) The earmark disclosure webpage of a committee
20 shall post the information required under subparagraphs
21 (1) within two days of introduction, and shall maintain
22 that information on that webpage for the remainder of the
23 Congress.

24 “(3) For purposes of this paragraph, the terms ‘con-
25 gressional earmark’, ‘limited tax benefit’, and ‘limited tar-

1 iff benefit' shall have the meaning given them in clause
2 9 of rule XXI.”.

3 SEC. 3. Clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the
4 House of Representatives is amended by redesignating
5 paragraphs (e), (f), and (g) as paragraphs (f), (g), and
6 (h), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (d) the
7 following:

8 “(e) It shall not be in order to consider any bill or
9 joint resolution, or an amendment thereto or conference
10 report thereon, that carries a congressional earmark, lim-
11 ited tax benefit, or limited tariff benefit for which a Mem-
12 ber, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner failed to comply
13 with any applicable requirement of clause 18 of rule
14 XXIII.”.

15 SEC. 4. The amendments made by this resolution
16 shall apply to requests for congressional earmarks, limited
17 tax benefits, and limited tariff benefits made after the
18 date this resolution is agreed to.

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